

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 031428
ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPE:ROHOMME

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPE:ROHOMME

-----110545Z 001857 /21

R 110157Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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FOLLOWING REPEAT EC BRUSSELS 01276 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS ATHENS 09 FEB 77

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 01276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EC, EP, GR

SUBJECT: EC/GREECE NEGOTIATIONS DISCUSSED AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. IN REPLY TO QUESTION IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 9 ABOUT WHEN GREECE CAN EXPECT TO BECOME A FULL EC MEMBER, JOHN TOMLINSON, UK UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE IN FCO AND ACTING PRESIDENT-IN-COUNCIL, SAID SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ARE COMPLEX, HAVE BEEN UNDER WAY ONLY SINCE LAST DECEMBER AND THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHEN THEY WILL CONCLUDE. TOMLINSON NOTED THAT THIS EARLY PERIOD OF NEGOTIATION IS DESIGNED TO LAY OUT INITIAL POSITIONS AND ISOLATE PROBLEM AREAS WHICH WILL BE RESOLVED ONLY AT A LATER STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS REGARDING DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH EC COUNCIL VIEWS THE ACCESSION TALKS, TOMLINSON RECALLED CROSLAND'S ASSURANCE TO PARLIAMENT LAST MONTH THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS IT "POLITICALLY IMPORTANT" FOR GREECE TO ACHIEVE FULL EC MEMBERSHIP.

3. SHORTLY AFTER FOREGOING PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE, GREEK

AMBASSADOR TO EC, WHO WAS ALSO IN LUXEMBOURG FOR PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, TOLD MISSION OFFICER HE WAS PUZZLED AS TO WHAT IMPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FOR GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE CONTAINED IN COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS' COMMENTS ON ENLARGEMENT DURING HIS FEBRUARY 8 SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT LAYING OUT COMMISSION'S 1977 WORK PROGRAM (JENKINS ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE, BUT CAUTIONED THAT EC WOULD ALSO HAVE TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT OVERALL IMPLICATIONS OF ENLARGEMENT FOR EC INSTITUTIONS). NOTING THAT HE PREFERRED CROSLAND'S "RATHER MORE DIRECT ENDORSEMENT OF GREEK NEGOTIATIONS," GREEK AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED, NONETHELESS, THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE OFF TO A GOOD START AND SAID THAT AS OF NOW HE DETECTS NO SERIOUS ATTEMPT IN COMMUNITY CIRCLES TO SLOW DOWN THE GREEK TALKS WHILE DECIDING WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED APPLICATIONS FROM PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. HINTON

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE031428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:ROHOMME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-0196
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770249/aaaabrej.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 021a6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3338122
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC/GREECE NEGOTIATIONS DISCUSSED AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
TAGS: PORG, GR, EEC
To: ANKARA MADRID MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/021a6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009